

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

3/9/04

FINAL PASSAGE

HB 4706 (Vander Veen) HB 4755 (Vander Veen)

HB 4706 would regulate a patient's access to his or her medical records. Under the bill, a patient would have the right to obtain his or her medical record.

House Bill 4755 would include a violation of the proposed provisions created by HB 4706 among grounds for administrative sanction; and to require a health facility or agency to comply with the new law.

Support: Center for Civil Justice, MI Poverty Law Program, MI Chiropractic Society, MI Protection and Advocacy Services, MI Advocacy Project, MI Health and Hospital Assn., Western Michigan Legal Services, MI AARP, Planned Parenthood.

HB 4706:

• HB 4706 passed with IE [RC 112: 38 yes, 0 no].

HB 4755:

• HB 4706 passed with IE [RC 113: 38 yes, 0 no].

HB 5434 (Taub) HB 5440 (Emmons)

Since June 2003, The Michigan Department of Treasury requires large (over 200) filers such as tax preparers to file electronically. House Bill 5434 and House Bill 5440 bills remove that requirement (for this tax year only). Therefore, tax preparers cannot be required to e-file for their clients. Passage of this bill will cost the state additional resources, since it will be more difficult for them to process additional non-electronic tax returns.

HB 5434 deals with the state Income Tax.

3/4:

• Brater 1 (1 amend) was defeated on 3rd Reading [RC 99: 15 yes, 22 no]. This would have required the Legislature to first appropriate \$2.7 million to the Dept. of Treasury, so that they (Treasury) can pay the added costs of processing the extra non-electronic tax returns which would result from passage of this bill.

• HB 5434 initially passed [RC 100: 23 yes, 14 no]. Immediate Effect was <u>defeated</u> [no RC]. Later in session, the vote passing the bill was reconsidered [no RC] and the bill moved back to Third Reading. Therefore, the bill has not received "final" passage.

3/9:

• HB 5434 passed [RC 108: 24 yes, 13 no]. Immediate Effect was <u>defeated</u> [RC 109: 23 yes, 13 no].

HB 5440 deals with the state Single Business Tax.

3/4:

• Brater 1 (1 amend) was defeated on 3rd Reading [RC 101: 14 yes, 22 no]. This would have required the Legislature to first appropriate \$2.7 million to the Dept. of Treasury, so that they (Treasury) can pay the added costs of processing the extra non-electronic tax returns which would result from passage of this bill.

3/9:

• HB 5440 passed [RC 110: 24 yes, 14 no]. Immediate Effect was defeated [RC 111: 23 yes, 15 no].

THIRD READING

SB 111 (Garcia)

SB 111 would require state parks containing a designated shooting range to post at park entrances the hours of the range on that day.

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 111 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 759 (Patterson)

SB 759 would require that boater's safety classes teach information on marine fueling techniques and the results of spillage.

• SB 759 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 778 (Hammerstrom)

SB 778 would allow an officer or employee of a community mental health services program to serve as a public officer or employee of another legal or administrative entity. The bill would ensure consistency between existing statutes.

Support: MI Assn. of CMH Boards, DCH.

• SB 778 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 1013 (SCHAUER)

SB 1013 would shorten the dormancy period to two years before assets are turned over to the State Treasurer in cases in which the demutualization of insurance company occurs. The bill would increase State revenues by approximately \$15 million in both 2003-04 and 2004-05.

- Committee 1 (S-3) was defeated [no RC].
- Johnson 2 (S-4) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 1013 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 1014 (EMERSON)

SB 1014 would increase the amount of money from the Agricultural Preservation Fund that may be spent annually for administrative costs. The bill would raise the administrative cap from \$700,000 to \$900,000 annually.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 1014 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 1015 (CHERRY)

SB 1015 would allow, for fiscal year 2003-04 only, a payment of \$12 million for the rent (debt service) to the State Building Authority (SBA) for payment on the bonds used to finance the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) project from the Commercial Mobile Radio System (CMRS) emergency telephone fund.

• SB 1015 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 1016 (EMERSON)

SB 1016 would the uses of the Teacher-Administrator Preparation and Certification Fund. Under current law, money in the Fund may be spent only for the operation of two items, the teacher and administrator preparation and certification programs. Under the bill, the Fund also could be used for teacher and administrator professional development and other quality-related activities. The bill also would transfer \$1,000,000 from this restricted fund to the General Fund in the current fiscal year, 2003-04.

• SB 1016 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 1017 (EMERSON) SB 1018 (EMERSON)

SBs 1017 and 1018 would transfer the responsibility for the administration of the driver education program from the Department of Education to the Department of State. The bills also would eliminate the Driver Education Fund, redirect funding from the Driver Education Fund to the Traffic Law Enforcement and Safety Fund, and eliminate driver education grants.

SB 1017:

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 1017 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 1018:

• SB 1018 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 1019 (EMERSON)

SB 1019 would clarify the distribution of payments to local units given the appropriation reductions in Executive Order 2003-23, which reduced the revenue sharing appropriation for 2003-04 by \$72 million.

- EMERSON 1 (S-2) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 1017 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 1020 (Johnson)

SB 1020 would make Merit Award scholarships to students payable in the State fiscal year that begins after the beginning of the academic year for which the student is eligible. For example, for a qualified student graduating in June 2004 who plans to attend college this fall (which is academic year 2004-05), payments would be made to the selected college during the State's fiscal year 2004-05, which begins on October 1, 2004. If the amendments to the Act are not adopted, the State will not be able to save an estimated \$63 million in 2003-04 and an estimated \$63 million in 2004-05.

• SB 1020 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 1021 (Brown)

SB 1021 would allow the banked leave time and furlough hours for State Police employees to count as full credited service for the purpose of determining an employee's retirement benefit.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated [no RC].
- Brown 2 (S-2) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 1017 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 5266 (CONDINO)

HB 5266 would allow the banked leave time and furlough hours for State employees to count as full credited service for the purpose of determining an employee's retirement benefit.

• HB 5266 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 5279 (ACCAVITTI)

HB 5279 would allow the banked leave time and furlough hours for State Police employees to count as full credited service for the purpose of determining an employee's retirement benefit.

• HB 5279 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4352 (Shackleton)

HB 4352 would prohibit a snowmobile headlight from being covered with a lens cap of any color.

• HB 4352 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4871 (JAMNICK)

HB 4871 would increase the taxable court costs in various landlord-tenant civil actions. These increases are permissive, but they raise the maximum amount as follows: 1) motion that results in dismissal or judgment from \$20 to \$75; 2) default judgment from \$15 to \$75; 3) trial for a claim for possession only from \$20 to \$150; 4) trial for a claim for money judgment only from \$20 to \$150; 5) trial for a claim of possession/money judgment from \$30 to \$150.

• HB 4871 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.